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Hostages

WASHINGTON

The government is doing everything it can to win the release of six Americans kidnapped in Lebanon but there are no breakthroughs, the chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence said today.

Chairman Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., met with relatives of the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco and some of the other hostages. The family members are in Washington this week to meet with diplomats, administration officials and congressmen.

'We just have to meet with them, keep in touch as much as possible, do everything we can to express our sympathy ... to assure them we will do everything we can,' Hamilton said after the brief meeting.

Asked if there were breakthroughs to report, Hamilton responded, 'Oh, no.'

Jenco, now 51, a missionary for 25 years, was sent to Lebanon in October 1984 to be director of Catholic Relief Services. He was abducted by gunmen on Jan. 8, 1985, in west Beirut while being driven to work.

A group calling itself Islamic Jihad said it is holding the Americans captive until 17 terrorists held in Kuwait prisons are released.

Andy Mihelich, a nephew of Jenco, said the meetings this week 'are much more upbeat' than past visits by relatives.

Peggy Say, the sister of hostage Terry Anderson, made an urgent plea for his release because their father, Glenn Anderson of Batavia, N.Y., is critically ill with cancer.

Say told United Press International she and some other hostage family members expected to meet with Vice President George Bush today but an official said denied that a meeting had been scheduled.

Say said her father is seriously ill and had been brought to the family home in Batavia from Florida. She did not specify the form of cancer her father is suffering from.

During their visit to Washington, family members also hope to meet with national security adviser John Poindexter and to visit some of the Arab embassies, Say said.

A yellow ribbon, given to President Reagan as a reminder of the American captives, still hangs on a door of the White House. Administration officials

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have refused to negotiate for release of the hostages, but have said they are willing to talk with the captors.

Terry Waite, a special envoy from Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, has been shuttling to Washington, London and the Middle East in an effort to end the hostages' trauma.

The hostages are believed to be held by Lebanese Shiite Moslems, who want to secure the release of 17 Shiites jailed in Kuwait for terrorist bombings. Kuwait has refused to release the 17 and the United States has endorsed that position.

In addition to Anderson, 37, Beirut bureau chief for The Associated Press, the hostages include:

-William Buckley, 56, a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, abducted March 18, 1984. There have been unconfirmed claims that Buckley has been killed by his captors. The messages have assert Buckley was a CIA official.

-Peter Kilburn, 60, librarian at the University of Beirut who disappeared Nov. 30, 1984.

-The Rev. Martin Lawrence Jenco, 50, director of Catholic Relief Services in Lebanon, kidnapped Jan. 8, 1985.

-David Jacobsen, 54, administrator of the American University Hospital in West Beirut, kidnapped on May 28, 1985.

-Thomas Sutherland, 53, dean of the American University of Beirut's Agriculture School, seized by gunmen June 9, 1985.